

LIFE IN SING SING.

The Men Who Run It and the Prisoners Who are Kept in It—Famous Prisoners from New York.

Warden Brush, Principal Keeper Connaughton—A Question to be Solved When the Contraband Run Out.

New York Sun.

The state prison at Sing Sing is the object of a morbid curiosity to thousands besides those whose interest is direct and natural from the fact of relationship or acquaintance with some of its inmates. From its location, so near the metropolis, and on the great lines of travel by Hudson river boat and railroad, it is still further made an object of public attention. The travelers by boat turn from the natural beauties of the scene to a closer scrutiny of the great dark prison buildings and the huddled group of shops. Eager eyes peer sharply for a glimpse of a moving figure, and the sight of a man in the rough, patterned striped uniform is dwelt upon. Those who chance to see a file of convicts in the lock-step, like a gigantic caterpillar, crawling with its hundred legs across the view, are thrilled by the sight. It is the shock of a revelation of the life of a prisoner, a life in which individuality is almost entirely sunk; a life in which passion survives and recollection does not sleep, but every expression of either is inexorably repressed and hope itself can scarcely exist. The convict is often said to be assigned to a "living death." But death implies forgetfulness, a boon the humblest, dullest and least imaginative among them would welcome.

Even the railroad passengers flashing through the cut between the tunnels on the prison grounds peep out and are stirred by a momentary glance at the cold gray walls of the main prison building.

An added interest is taken by New Yorkers in affairs at Sing Sing of late on account of the translation to its secure retreat of so many conspicuous local figures. The boudie siders, Ferdinand Ward, Buddiesiek and Sergeant Crowley are among these. Everybody wants to see the distinguished prisoners. But this curiosity is not encouraged. Aside from the visitors to convicts, as authorized by the rules, very few callers are received. Fewer yet can get beyond the office into the prison shops. Parties of which ladies form a part are never shown any further than the cell building and the dining hall, where 1200 prisoners are fed together.

The people of the state at large have a further interest in Sing Sing, connected with the problems of prison management. The objections to the competition of convict labor on contract work against outside capital and labor have resulted in the abolition of contract labor in New York state prisons. No work for account of the state has been provided for them in its place, as nearly the same objections apply to that. Aside from the difference in the cost of maintaining the prisons, this complicates the question of discipline. When the contracts expire, what shall be done with the convicts? Nothing will cause so much demoralization among them as idleness. The stove contract at Sing Sing expires with the present month. The hundreds of men employed in various capacities, from the foundry to the finishing room, will be without occupation. Some of them will have to be transferred to Auburn. There is no work for them there either, but there are empty cells, while in Sing Sing some cells have two occupants. The shoe contract and the shirt contract, which includes only laundry work, are also about expiring.

The men who have to deal with the difficult question of maintaining discipline under these new circumstances are Warden Brush, State Detective Jackson, and Principal Keeper Connaughton. Warden Brush is a stout, good-natured looking, full-whiskered man. He lives at the prison, is the executive head of the institution, and the link in the business connection with the state. Detective Jackson is a slighter, younger man, with a striking face, of which a pair of keen eyes are the prominent feature. They see everything, but tell nothing, and the expression of his mouth is hidden by a heavy drooping moustache. He has a wonderful memory for faces, and is relied upon all over the country to identify any crooks that are suspected of being ex-convicts from New York state. At the prison his post is to take charge of the room in which prisoners are allowed once in three months to see visitors. He must see that nothing contraband is conveyed to the prisoner, nothing said that may further any inside plots or plans, and that no one who has ever been a prisoner enters the place as a visitor. This is a most stringent rule, and, curiously enough, frequent attempts are made to evade it.

From the office of the Warden and his clerical force to that of Principal Keeper James Connaughton, the way is through the prison. Two locked doors and two armed turnkeys are between. When the prisoner enters the first of these doors he comes under the almost absolute authority of the man in the principal keeper's office. His work is selected for him there, his self assigned to him from there, his conduct is reported there, and there he is taken for reprimands or punishments. The "Principal," as he is known in the prison, has been there twelve years, seven of them in his present office of manager of everything inside the prison. He lives on the prison grounds in the building formerly used as a woman's prison, and yet he is frequently unable to get home to his dinner, and is often out until 11 o'clock at night. And yet he is so seldom outside of the guard limits that his friends say he might as well be a prisoner.

Mr. Connaughton, from his office and his power over the 1600 prisoners, is the object of the most wide-eyed curiosity to visitors. They are sometimes actually surprised into the confession that they expected to see something different from ordinary men, with hints of horns or cloven feet. But they see only a medium-sized man, with iron gray hair and smooth face. The features are clear cut and the mouth mobile, though its predominant expression is one of firmness. The eyes are of a pleasant gray hue that sometimes seems to catch the cold gray of the prison walls. Mr. Connaughton sometimes talks freely of the sensational stories that are in circulation concerning punishments. He declares that they are started by discharged convicts of vivid imaginations, and spread and exaggerated by sentimentalists who know nothing of prisons or prison management.

The suicide of William Burgess, a grand larceny prisoner from New York, has been the theme for many of these stories.

He jumped into the river and was drowned on June 29, 1888, after serving a little more than a month of a sentence of three years and a half. The charge was made that he was driven to suicide by cruel treatment and preferred death to punishment. Mr. Connaughton has the record of punishments and the testimony of himself and other keepers to show that Burgess was never complained of for any infraction of discipline, never called into the "Principal's" office, and never saw the punishment room. But from that story, supported by the actual fact that there was a suicide, exaggerations have found their way into print until some believe that Mr. Connaughton hung a man up by the wrists and dashed him with cold water until he died, greeting the doctor's announcement of the death with the remark, "So much the better," that in walking through a shop the principal keeper drew a pistol and shot a man who did not look pleased to see him; and that prisoners are thrust for punishment into dark cells that are black holes whose noxious walls drip filth and moisture. Mr. Connaughton always ends the conversation on this topic by asking:

"Do I look like a man who would do things like that? I have not carried a pistol six hours since I have been in this position."

Then he insists upon showing the punishment room. It is a room of oak plank in a frame work, and may be fixed at any height by means of pegs fitting in a row of holes in the frame. A snap hook in the middle of the plank is used to fasten the chain of a pair of handcuffs to the prisoner to be punished has his hands in these cuffs. The degree of punishment is governed by the elevation of the movable plank. If it is low enough so that the prisoner can stand flat-footed, it is luke-warm and painful, but endurable. Raised until he is on tiptoe, it is a thousand times worse, and lifted until the victim is suspended by the wrists, it is so severe an ordeal that thirty seconds usually suffices to bring to submission the most obdurate. The "Principal" says that this punishment is seldom used, and a man is never hung up without getting there a last chance to choose between punishment and work, or whatever alternative the object is to enforce.

The next lighter punishment is the dark cell, and the other penalties are the stopping of privileges or tobacco of offenders, keeping them locked up over Sunday or giving them harder work. Mr. Connaughton has many letters from visiting clergymen and priests commending his treatment of the prisoners. William Poole and Joseph Fout, who were pardoned on New Year's Day, asked the reporters to make mention of their grateful appreciation of the kindness of Warden Brush and Keeper Connaughton to them, and Fout repeated his thanks in a letter written after he had reached New York.

The plain fact about life in an institution like Sing Sing prison is that common sense and intelligence are just as useful there as anywhere else. The good prisoner is the one who realizes that the rules are inexorable and the routine must be gone through with. He avoids trouble himself and does not trouble his keepers. Most of the famous prisoners from this city are good in this sense. Philosophy or policy governs them, and they seem to be inclined to face the situation and make the best of it. The possible exception is Ward, whose fertile brain cannot rest from scheming. His schemes no longer involve millions of money and the credit of individuals and financial institutions. They are devoted to the attempt to secure little privileges for himself at every possible occasion. He was a complete failure in book keeping, and had to be put out of the contractor's office before he hopelessly muddled the accounts. He is now kicking a small printing press. His work is confined to printing tags for his stove shops and trifles like that, and his thoughts apparently do not go beyond the consideration of excuses to get as many trips across the yard as possible.

The only drawback to the pleasure is the fact that he is too apt to be seen. He could scarcely fail of recognition by the most casual observer. His striped woolen cap, much too large, is pulled down over his ears, and his coarse jacket goes up to meet it like a muffer. But the nose and eyes are visible and unmistakable. Ex-Police Sergeant David Crowley has the hardest task to look philosophically upon his sentence of seventeen years and a half. He denounced the injustice of it, while giving assurance that he can stand it himself. But he breaks down when he speaks of his wife. "His never had any trouble before," said he, "but within seven months' time she lost her husband, who was sent to prison, and her father and mother and six-year-old daughter by death." Ex-Alderman Jaehne shows the same nerve in his prison experience that distinguished him in his trial. The loss of his moustache makes as great a change in his face as the prison uniform contrasts with his old dapper appearance. He has left the laundry department and works in a side room of the bake house, with only one man with him. They pack the tobacco for the prison, a package of fine cut, that may be either chewed or smoked in a pipe, being given every Saturday night to each prisoner.

Ex-Alderman McQuade has also graduated from the preliminary school of turning shirts. He is now on the top floor of the laundry, where only a few other men are at work. They take care of the drying rooms and tie up the rough-dried shirts. Like Jaehne, he is in splendid health, and shows good nerve. The change in his looks made by the loss of his curly hair is very noticeable.

Buddiesiek is employed in a little wood-working shop that is a relic of the old state furniture factory. He would be perfectly satisfied, apparently, if he could visit every day to his foreman and see him occasionally. It took him a long time to realize that he could not carry on his building business from Sing Sing.

Prof. De Leon, the astrologer, was sent into the shoe shop on the day of his arrival. He was not set to work at once, and sank into a sitting posture beside the keeper's desk. With his head buried in his hands he scarcely stirred until the day was over. The discharged prisoners are clothed at

haphazard from the stock taken from the prisoners when they come in. They are fitted as far as possible, and whatever choice there may be is given to them. Jaehne's good clothes were very speedily selected and worn back to New York, though no one man got more than one garment. A prisoner discharged during the cold weather asked the "Principal" to be sure and give him a good overcoat. "I will be sure and bring it back," he said. "I am not like those mean fellows who never bring anything back." Twenty-eight days after his discharge this prisoner returned on a new sentence, and in giving up the overcoat called attention to the promise he had made, and to the fact that the coat had been cleaned and had a new binding.

A few doses of Red Star Cough Cure cured my cold.—M. S. E. Taylor, Philadelphia, Pa.

MURDER AND LYNCHING.

A Negro Shoots a Deputy Sheriff and is Strung Up.

NAVASOTA, TEX., Feb. 16.—Information was received in this city this morning of the shooting and mortally wounding last Monday of Deputy Sheriff Upchurch by a brutal negro named Jim Richards, at Dallas, in the eastern portion of this county, thirty miles from here, near the Madison county line. Upchurch had Richards under arrest on a charge of theft, and the latter, watching his opportunity, jerked Upchurch's pistol, a large navy six, from its scabbard and inflicted the fatal wound, the ball entering the bowels, passing entirely through the body, ranging downward and coming out below the thigh. The victim is still alive but the physicians pronounce the wound fatal. Richards was knocked down and captured by patrolmen present and placed under guard. News of the unprovoked and dastardly crime spread over the country like wild fire. The indignation among the friends of Upchurch increased as rapidly as the news was told, and about sundown Monday evening over seventy-five masked men armed to the teeth took Richards from the custody of the guards and swung him to a neighboring tree. Upchurch was a good officer, stood high wherever known, and has a wife and child.

A Police officer is a fool; don't mistake that for a fact. Buy a bottle of Dr. J. C. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Use no other than the best. Saturated Oil cures all pain. Price 25 cents a bottle.

Killed While Tobogganing.

RUTLAND, Vt., Feb. 16.—The first serious accident from the introduction of tobogganing into this section happened at the slide of Titcomb & Torrey Monday night, by which James C. Barrett, a leading member of the Rutland bar, lost his life, and a lady named Mrs. Charles P. Harris received serious and probably fatal injuries.

The board which formed part of the side of the chute near the bottom became splintered and displaced, so it projected into the slide, pointing upward. Four young men had just passed it and their clothes had been badly torn by it, but none of the party was injured. A boy informed Mr. Titcomb and the latter ran to remove it, but just at that instant a toboggan bearing Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Harris and Mr. Barrett in the order named, dashed down the chute. Mrs. Barrett passed the deadly projection without touching it, but it struck Mrs. Harris on the outside of the thigh, cutting a long, deep gash. It then struck Barrett on the under and inner side of the thigh, extending up through it and his abdomen, and coming out at his back. The force of the collision was frightful, and he was knocked off the toboggan, but the ladies went on to the foot of the slide. Barrett was completely transfixed by the board, but he did not for a moment lose consciousness and bore the excruciating pain with remarkable fortitude. The doctors etherized him and sawed off the board and removed it, and then conveyed Barrett to his home. Meanwhile Mrs. Barrett, not knowing of his injuries, was hauling Mrs. Harris up the toboggan. Upon their arrival, Mrs. Harris remained without attention for some time, but when the severity of her injuries became known she, too, was taken to her home. Barrett, who was fully conscious and realized his great danger, called for his wife, and when she came he kissed her and asked her to pray with him. He then submitted to the operations of the physicians. He died at 7 o'clock last evening. Mrs. Harris is in a critical condition.

Haven't you a relative or friend in the old state who would appreciate a first-class Texas paper? If so send them the Weekly Gazette. A year of the Gazette for \$1.00. You can send them the paper and keep the chance in the drawing for yourself.

Palestine Notes.

PALESTINE, TEX., Feb. 16.—The congressional agitation has almost reached a dead calm. Thus far Perkins, Nunn and Martin appear to be the most conspicuous favorites out of the six prospective candidates. Goetz of this city is still mum, and it is doubtful if Palestine will have a candidate for the Reagan succession. Our Commissioners' court is now sitting as a board of tax equalization and is being numerously interviewed by the taxpayers. Rain is anxiously looked for. It has been general in this county the last two days.

A Steamer Ashore.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The Guion line steamship Wisconsin, from Liverpool for New York, is ashore on the outer bar, fifteen miles east of Fire Island. The stranded vessel was discovered at 8:15 o'clock this morning, when the fog which had prevailed during the night lifted. She is hard on the beach, and a heavy sea is running. No communication has yet been had with the vessel from the beach, but her passengers and mails are stated to be safe.

Cheap Railroad Tickets.

Round trip tickets to New Orleans and return will be on sale at Union Depot ticket office, February 16 to 21, inclusive, good to return until February 27, at rate of \$17.00 for the round trip. Choice of routes, through Pullman sleepers and free reclining chairs. Passengers coming from the north, south, east or west and purchasing their tickets at the Union Depot make close connections and avoid tedious and expensive transfers. C. D. Lusk, Ticket Agent.

Have you a father, mother, brother or sister that would like a first-class newspaper? Subscribe to the Weekly Gazette and get for yourself a ticket in the big drawing.

ON WALL STREET.

The Stock Market Was Again Extremely Dull Yesterday—The Fluctuations Insignificant.

The Final Prices of Railway Bonds Generally Show Gains of Small Fractions. An Increase in Sales.

COMMERCIAL RESUME.

Special to the Gazette. New York, Feb. 16.—Railway bonds today sold as follows: Fort Worth and Denver City at 99; Texas and Pacific incomes at 99; Kansas and Texas 6's at 98; 2's at 84; 1's at 104; St. Louis, Arkansas and Texas 1's at 100; 2's at 53; Houston and Texas Central 1's at 114; Missouri, Kansas and Texas 5's at 85; 7's at 104.

Foreign exchange firm. Money 3/4 per cent. Governments lower. Wheat quiet. Oil closed at 71 1/2. Cotton dull. Coffee advanced.

GOVERNMENTS, STOCKS AND BONDS. New York, Feb. 16.—To-day's stock market was again extraordinarily dull and barren of features with the trading almost entirely professional and the fluctuations, except in one or two stocks, were confined within a range of less than 1 per cent. The only outside influence in the market was small purchases for London account. Jersey Central was the special feature, 10,000 shares of borrowed stock being called in and an influential brokerage house and a large block transferred to their name, which caused a rush of shorts in that stock to cover. A material advance was established and maintained to the close. Union Pacific was again conspicuously weak, and was joined by Richmond and West Point. Both of these stocks, however, steadied later in the day. Reading was steady, its extreme fluctuations for the day being only 1/4, although its sales exceeded any other stock. A disposition of foreigners to buy made a strong opening, and advances over yesterday's closing prices ranged up to 1/4. Trading was extremely dull, but the covering of shorts established slight advances during the forenoon. These were afterwards lost, but the fluctuations were so small the market was entirely without character. The close was very dull and about steady at insignificant changes from the opening prices.

Railroad bonds were rather firm late in the day, and the final prices generally show gains of small fractions. Sales, \$1,069,000.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIZE FIGHT.

A Desperate Three Round Contest between Local Sloggers.

CONCORD, N. H., Feb. 16.—A most stubborn and wicked prize fight between local celebrities took place at a sporting house at Longport yesterday. The contestants were Plummer Welch of Manchester and E. L. Buchanan of Franklin. Only three rounds were fought. Two-ounce gloves were used and the fight was to a finish. Buchanan brood the fighting and had the best of the first two rounds, though Welch drew blood in the first round and broke Buchanan's nose in the second. In the third round Buchanan, after a few feints, let go with his left and caught Welch on the right side of the jaw and followed it with a swinging right hander which landed between the jaw and collarbone and near the jugular vein. Welch fell like a log in the middle of the ring, where he lay for fifteen seconds without opening his eyes, and it was eighteen seconds before he could get on his feet. The fight was awarded to Buchanan.

Grinnell Can Convince Them.

CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 16.—A morning paper quotes State's Attorney Grinnell as saying: "I have enough evidence in hand to send every 'boodle' county commissioner to the penitentiary, if I can procure a fair, impartial jury to try them, and if they stand up like men and defend themselves squarely and honestly on the merits of the cases." It is now conceded that several of the county contractors have "squealed," and that the indictments will probably be withdrawn against some of the members of the late Cook county board for correction.

Philadelphia Municipal Election.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Feb. 16.—The pluralities for municipal officers here yesterday, were as follows: For Mayor, Fitter, Republican, over Kelm, Democrat, 28,293; Receiver of Taxes, Clay, Republican, over Kenton, Democrat, 7780; City Solicitor, Warwick, Republican, over Arundell, Democrat, 38,247.

Died of Their Injuries.

DETROIT, MICH., Feb. 16.—The three Hoffer children burned in the explosion in their father's furniture store yesterday afternoon, died during the night. Hoffer is still alive, but his recovery is extremely doubtful.

Secretary Lamar's Gallantry.

CHICAGO HERALD. There is no member of the Cabinet more gallant than Secretary Lamar. Just before he left for the south his office was filled with a host of callers, and among them was a very buxom and prepossessing lady. She intercepted the Secretary as he was stepping into a private room for a conversation with a Senator, and stated her business. Lamar held her that he would attend to her matter in a few minutes. "Oh, but you'll forget me, Mr. Secretary," said the lady, plaintively. Throwing a look of intense admiration upon the attractive form of the suppliant, the Secretary said in rapid and intense tones, "How could I?" whereupon there was a general laugh. This is not for Mrs. Lamar's eagle eye.

"Nip the evil in the bud." Stop that cough in its first stages, before serious consequences ensue. Dr. J. H. McLean's Tar Wine Lung Balm is an effective remedy; 25 cents a bottle.

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" Sterling organ.....	150.00	Cooper's works, 16 vols., cloth and gilt.....	24.00
" Bird wind-mill.....	100.00	" Dickens' works, 15 vols., cloth and gilt.....	18.75
" J. B. Mitchell wagon.....	75.00	" Scott's works, 12 vols., cloth and gilt.....	18.00
" high arm Singer Sewing machine.....	55.00	" Thackeray's works, 11 vols., cloth and gilt.....	16.50
" Ellis & Kellner No. 1 stock saddle.....	50.00	" George Elliot's works, 8 vols., cloth and gilt.....	12.00
" No. 1 Hocking Valley hand dump rake.....	30.00	" William Black's works, 7 vols., cloth and gilt.....	10.50
" Charter Oak cooking stove, complete.....	28.00	" Dore's Paradise Lost, full morocco.....	10.00
" Avery & Son's 10-inch plow.....	12.50	" Dante's Inferno, full morocco.....	10.00
" case Wagona Silurian water case Wright-Carter crackers.....	4.50	" Dante's Purgatory and Paradise, full morocco.....	10.00
" case Silver Leaf Baking powder.....	4.00	" Macaulay's History of England, cloth.....	6.75
" case Common Sense soap.....	3.50	" The Daily Gazette one year.....	5.00
" The Daily Gazette six months.....	5.00	" Plutarch's Lives.....	4.50
" The Daily Gazette three months.....	3.00	" Dore's Wandering Jew.....	4.00
" The Sunday Gazette one year.....	2.00		

The following Books are Handsomely Bound in Cloth, and were Specially Selected for our Premium List:

Adam Bede, Adventures Among the Indians, Faop's Fables, Andersen's Fairy Tales, Arabian Nights, Arne and a Happy Boy, Assignment and other Tales, Belin, Bits of Blarney, Book of Snobs, Called Back, Cast Up by the Sea, Children of the Abbey, Complete Letter Writer, Daughter of Heth, Deep Down, Dickens' Child's History, Dickens' Shorter Stories, Dickens' Story Teller, Don Quixote, Dore's East Lynne, Eight Years' Wanderings in Ceylon, Enlign the Bold, Ethan Brand, Felix Holt, Fern Leaves, Fire Brigade, Frankenstein and Demals Duval, Franklin's Autobiography, Gems of Oratory, Green Pastures and Piccadilly, Grimm's Popular Tales, Ladies and Gentlemen's Etiquette, Ladies Lindores, Lady of Lyons, Last Days of Pompeii, Last of the Mohicans, Macleod of Dare, Maid of Athens, Margaret and Her bridesmaids, Mark Seaworth, Midshipman, Mill on the Floss, Miss Tommy, Dream, Stephen Lawrence, So True a Mrs. Geoffrey, Murders of the Rue Morgue, Mysterious Island, Noted French Orators, Oliver Twist, Our Mutual Friend, Outre Mer, Paul and Virginia, Peter the Waaler, Phantom Fortune, Puyalis, Pilgrims' Progress, Red Eric, Richelieu and Under the Red Flag, Rifle and Hound in Ceylon, Robinson Crusoe, Romola, Round the World, Salt Water, Sartor Resartus, Scottish Chiefs, Shadows and Sunbeams, Shandon Bells, Sketch Book, Spanish Nun and the Black Dwarf, Stoddard's Readings and Recitations, Strange Adventures of a Phaeton, Sunrise, Swiss Family Robinson, Thaddeus of Warsaw, That Beautiful Wretch, Thicker than Water, Three Feathers, Three Spaniards, Tom Brown's School Days at Rugby, Tom Cringle's Log, Tom of the World in Eighty Days, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Two on a Tower, Vanity Fair, Willey Kelly, Young Forestiers, Quotations and Mythology, Rival Poets, Archie Lovell, Love and Marriage, Maud Percy's Secret, Young Mrs. Charnleigh, Love's Warfare, So Dear a Shipman, Mill on the Floss, Miss Tommy, Dream, Stephen Lawrence, So True a Mrs. Geoffrey, Murders of the Rue Morgue, Mysterious Island, Noted French Orators, Oliver Twist, Our Mutual Friend, Outre Mer, Paul and Virginia.

POETS.

The following List of Red Line Poets, 59 in number, embrace all of the most Popular Authors. The books are Handsomely Bound, and at retail worth \$1.25:

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